TL 1349

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS,

14-25 of June 1993, Vienna - AUSTRIA

-CNRM-

National Council Of Maubere Resistance

Report of members of CNRM which had participated in the ***WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS - VIENNA,*** **June 14-25, 1993** to the Special Representative of CNRM Dr. J R-Horta and its representative in Portugal , Eng. Luis Cardoso.

INTRODUCTION

In its resolution ..., the General Assembly decided to convene the second World Conference on Human Rights 25 years after the Tehran Conference.

The main objective of this conference was to improve the existing UN mechanisms. This gave an opportunity for governments and to a large extend international organisations and non-governmental organisations to evaluate achievements of United Nations in promoting and protecting human rights, to formulate new recommendations on how to improve UN human rights programme as how to meet new challenges in a time of global political changes.

Prior to the actual conference, four preparatory and a number of regional meetings took place in order to foreseen negotiations on the final agenda of the Conference.

There was no activity on East-Timor during the first week of the Conference. In the second week, however, with the presence of other CNRM members. It was possible to bring the situation of East-Timor into to the attention in the corridors.

Monday, 21

It was possible to obtain a space in the corridor to disseminate information and publicise the struggle of East-Timor. Also, this was a good event to collect signatures on the illegal trial of Cmd Xanana as well as signatures on postcards directed to the Australian government and the Secretary General. The response to this initiative was very positive as by the afternoon all the booklets had been exhausted.

Members of CNRM took turns standing on the table to respond to enquires, so as others could participate in various parallel meetings organised by other human rights organisations. Nevertheless, despite of the energy and enthusiasm demonstrated by CNRM's members; it was impossible to be present in every important session.

Jose Amorim had a meeting with the South Koreans seeking the possibility to establish future solidarity in that country. The outcome was encouraging and now pending on future correspondence for the creation of a solidarity group in that region.

Constancio Pinto, sponsored by Amnesty International was not present at this session. He had gone on a mission with the Survivors Committee for Zagreb.

Tuesday, 22

Continuation of previous day activity. Members of CNRM decided to organised a session on East-Timor , despite of certain difficulties in mobilising organisations and individuals due to the closing sate of the conference. Moreover, a large number of organisation and individuals had returned home by then.

Flyers were immediately drafted and handed out informing participants on the session.

In the late afternoon, Nelson Santos and Jose Amorim were invited by the South Korean NGO coalition group to participate in their cultural night. J Amorim made a short but impressive statement. We finalised our presence with a Timorese song.

Constancio Pinto returned from Zagreb.

Wednesday, 23

Continuation of dissemination of information and awareness campaign.

As soon as the news of the East-Timorese students who sought political asylum reached Vienna. Jose Amorim immediately approached the Portuguese delegation explaining the situation and requesting for possible immediate action. We also approached the NGO Liaison Committee (LC) urging for action and therefore a draft was issued as a result of this meeting.

Constancio Pinto took the opportunity of his appointment with the US delegation to convey the message about the situation of the students. The Swedish and the Finish delegation were also contacted and finally the information received was disseminated to the media.

In the evening, Jose Amorim made an statement in the official plenary on the item of self-determination. His statement was deferred for two days due to pressure from Indonesia and India. As expected, his statement was not welcome by the Indonesia delegation.

Thursday, 24

The LC requested a meeting with the delegation of Sweden and Finland in order to express its decision taken in the previous day. Initially our presence was rejected by the two Ambassadors, however, after a short negotiation it was agreed for one Timorese to be present. Constancio Pinto was requested to represent CNRM due to his past involvement and connection with the students. The Ambassadors asked that the meeting should be kept "off the record".

The outcome of the meeting was not substantive as we had expected but more or less like an information session.

Finland: according to Finish legislation it does not provide political asylum. The participants were informed that the situation inside the Embassy is calm and under control. The Ambassadors said that his government is in negotiations with the Indonesian authorities and the student to provide security for the asylum seekers.

Sweden: The Ambassador informed the participants that the situation is very similar. Sweden can not draft political asylum. However, the government is under intense negotiation with all the parties involved hoping to reach a solution. The student continue to refuse living the Embassy premises.

Afternoon

East-Timor Session

Chair Person: Catheine Scott (UK);

Speakers: Constancio Pinto (CNRM);
Jose Amorim (CNRM);
Vidi (Indonesia);
Pat Walsh (ACFOA).

Considering the closing situation of the conference, the session was well attended, about 20 persons, including three Indonesian diplomats, one from the UK and the Netherlands. Representatives from the Portuguese delegation was unable to locate the room.

The first speaker, Constancio Pinto gave a short introduction regarding his experience and the resistance inside East-Timor. He said that Xanana's arrest is not the of the resistance because the people are determined to attain their goal and therefore conscious of the price to bear.

Jose Amorim described his experience during the invasion and spoke about activities regarding the structuring of student movement inside Indonesia and East-Timor. His intervention was moving in particular on the events which took place after the massacre and the relationship with the Timorese and Indonesia. Ordinary people which both are victims of the same regime. He asserted the brutality and the terror implemented by the Indonesian army since the invasion of island.

The presence of the Vidi was very much appreciated for the fact that she had courage speaking against her country in the presence of Indonesia diplomats. She asserted that the Indonesian students are brain washed during the elementary school about the history of Indonesia including East-Timor as the country's 27a province. Regarding the media, she said that it lacks of partiality and objectivity due to the scrutiny and control of military apparatus.

Pat Walsh gave a general overview concerning the current international solidarity movement and the diplomatic developments.

In the end, a number of questions were raised. The presence of Paulino Gama, in particular, his questions and comments were very counter-productive in the sense that many people present in this session, did not know about his background. In taking the floor Paulino praised the Indonesia regime for all the developments going on in East-Timor. On the other hand, he strongly accused Portugal for its past irresponsibilities. He put in question the right of self-determination and challenged the floor to call out on countries that are prompt to respond to East-Timor cause. Paulino believes that, the main aspect of the struggle should be concerned about the physical integrity of the people and rather than continue to feed them with false hopes. Therefore, CNRM ought to cease all its diplomatic activities. In addition, he said that the Timorese people are lacked of education to claim an independent state.

Replying to his intervention, Nelson Santos asserted that, 'the question disused is not the competition between Indonesian and Portugal colonisation record, but the denial of the East-Timorese of their very right to choose. Moreover, the amount of development in East-Timor will not resuscitate the people killed or as a justification for the continuing abuses of human rights.

Paulino was stopped frequently by the chair because his constant interruption depraving other participants the opportunity to participate in the debate.

There were many encouragement interventions and comments from the floor, in particular regarding the Rapporteur of ILO to PALOP

which provided some modest comments but very useful on the CNRM's aide memoir. He said that the memoir should be more convincing regarding the resources and the potential of East-Timor.

The session ended with an intervention of which utterly embarrassed the Indonesian diplomats when a participant commented on the uncooperative attitude of Indonesian in the drafting committee concerning the negotiations in particularly for the possible of the appointment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights, ***inter alia*** budget increased for the Centre for Human Rights.

Friday, 25 - Final Session of the WCHR

Continuation of dissemination of information during the morning session.

In the afternoon Jose Amorim alerted Nelson Santos and Timorese friends about propaganda statement promulgated by Paulino Gama in the governmental plenary. A copy of this statement was promptly faxed o CNRM headquarters in Sydney.

Due to lack of time, it was not possible for any counter information. However, to avoid further dissemination all of the statements were physically removed into the toilet bin.

Comments

According to the mandate of the GA, specific country situations were refrained to be evoked. Obviously this provision to a large degree permitted many countries to escape from their gross human rights policies and records. On the other hand, it limited organisations or individuals to attain resolutions or at least to mount an effective campaign particularly in the official conference. Nonetheless, there were other means and channels for publicity of which East-Timor solidarity groups, specially in Portugal failed completely.

On the occasion on this conference on Human Rights NGO-Forum was held in Vienna from 10-12. More than 1000 organisations had participated. Although the main objective of this forum was to draft recommendations for the official conference, but nevertheless, it was a great opportunity for publicity that due to lack of resources, co-ordination and information solidarity groups and in a way CNRM failed to identify. However, in the second week with the arrival of other members of CNRM, it was possible to disseminate information, lobbying and establishing contacts in the corridor.

CNRM members are reliable and capable but their lack of logistical and financial support often hinders their activities as it was experienced in Vienna. CNRM information desk was sustained by photocopies of newspaper articles some already obsolete due to lack of quality material such as visual booklets. Thus, questions are raised concerning the actual character of solidarity groups, in particular, Portugal about their interests and objectives as they utterly failed to contribute substantively in the publicity work of this conference.

In all, the presence of East-Timor was actually noticeable in the meetings and in the corridors in particular Dr. JR-Horta.

Recommendations

After the experience went through by members of CNRM. We recommended to the special representative in Portugal for his effort to request the solidarity groups some necessary means to create better and more reliable future Working conditions.

* To increase contribution in future conference or meetings;
* To provide logistical and technical assistance to CNRM/others.
* To provide a catalogue, agenda or program activities. So we know what to rely on them.
* To provide financial aide for cargo materials such as information booklets, posters and other related materials.

Conclusion

For the fact that certain logistical and technical difficulties were encountered by CNRM in this conference. The issue of East-Timor and the presence o CNRM were noticeable. Likewise, members of CNRM acquired valuable experience from this conference.

CNRM members:

Nelson Santos	-	**Human Rights Office;**
Jose Amorim	-	**EC;**
Constancio Pinto	-	**CNRM.**

By Nelson Santos and Jose Amorim